



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 15, 2012

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to encourage you to appoint Russell Selken, who serves as the E-rate Coordinator for California, to the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company as a schools' representative.

It is my understanding that Mr. Selken's name was submitted by the State E-rate Coordinators Alliance (SECA) in response to the FCC's request for nominations. Mr. Selken shares his E-rate expertise with California's schools by training them, answering their questions, and helping troubleshoot their problems on a daily basis.

He has been involved with California E-rate support since the second year of the program. He currently serves as the lead E-rate support person for the State, delivering statewide trainings and assisting all California applicants with their E-rate questions. He currently chairs the State Consortium Group to facilitate statewide applicants to discuss issues, share best practices, and collaborate on program issues on an ongoing basis. In addition, for over six years he has chaired California Public Utilities Commission Administrative Committee that works on telecommunication discounts for schools and libraries within California.

Owing to his rich professional experiences, and particularly his depth of knowledge about the E-rate program acquired from his roles as State E-rate Coordinator and as an applicant for funding on behalf of the state network, Mr. Selken is a highly qualified nominee. His substantial subject matter expertise is augmented by his keen awareness of the dynamics involved with serving on non-profit boards and his strong desire to discuss issues in a collaborative manner to achieve consensus whenever possible.

If you have any questions about my support for Mr. Selken's appointment, please contact me through Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, by phone at 916-319-0554 or by email at ccheslog@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson